

REMARKS

The last Office Action has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to Igashira.

At the same time the Examiner indicated that claims 2-6 and 9 were not rejected over the art.

The Examiner's indication of the allowability of some claims has been gratefully acknowledged. In connection with this indication applicant has canceled claim 2 and introduced its features into claim 1. It is believed that claim 1 should be therefore in allowable condition.

Claim 8 which is dependent on claim 1 should be considered as being in allowable condition as well.

Applicant has further canceled claim 3 and submitted new independent claim 10 which combines the features of the original claims 1 and 3. Claims 4, 5, 6, 7, have been amended or retained to depend on claim

3 and share its allowable features. Therefore, this group of claims is also in allowable condition.


Finally, claim 9 has been replaced with additional independent claim 11 which combines the features of the original claims 1 and 9 and therefore should be allowable.

Thus, it is believed that the present application contains the claims which should be considered as allowable.

Reconsideration and allowance of present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,



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JAN 21 2003

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